

to the Paris Observatory, the Equatorial Coudé and a Meridian Circle being due to his munificence; he subsidised the Observatory on Mont Blanc, and contributed towards the expense of redetermining the length of an arc of the meridian at Quito.

But he will, above all, be remembered as the founder of the Observatory of Nice, in the organisation of which he was assisted by the experience and authority of the Bureau des Longitudes. Having brought into existence this great institution, he entrusted its direction to the able and energetic astronomer Perrotin. He generously endowed the observatory, and finally assured its future by presenting it to the University of Paris. This foundation has rendered the name of Bischoffsheim familiar to astronomers in every land, and the *Annales* of his Observatory will form the imperishable memorial of its founder.

M. Bischoffsheim was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society on the 14th January 1881. G. B.

THE REV. JOHN BONE was the second son of John and Mary Bone, of Melton Lodge, Surrey. He was born on 20th October 1834. He graduated at King's College, London, in theology, with first-class honours, in 1861, and in the same year he was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Rochester. He was first licensed to the curacy of Radwell, Herts, and in 1862 was ordained priest. In 1863 he became curate of Poulton-le-Fylde. Thence he went to Melksham, Wilts, and from 1865 to 1873 he occupied the position of curate-in-charge of North Meols, Lancashire. He also served on the committee of the Southport Infirmary. In 1863 he married Eliza, youngest daughter of Samuel and Mary Mayhew, of Camberwell Park, Surrey.

As incumbent of St Thomas' Church, Lancaster, Mr Bone "read himself in" on the last Sunday in May 1873, so that he had held the living exactly thirty-three years. He was the oldest beneficed clergyman in Lancaster in point of length of time he had held the living.

For some years he conducted a class in astronomy at the Storey Institute, and was never happier than when introducing others into the mysteries and delights of solar science. Whenever any astronomical phenomenon was observable in Lancaster his was the brain that guided local observers, and by his personal observation of the heavens he has at various times been able to render good service to the cause of astronomical research. In the work of the Lancaster Astronomical and Scientific Association he took a deep interest, contributing several papers on various phases of the planetary, solar, and lunar systems. There are many in Lancaster who entertain feelings of gratitude to Mr Bone for the lead he gave them in their first essays in astronomy. The establishment of the Greg Observatory, of which he was honorary Director, was mainly due to his perseverance.

The sudden death of his wife in July 1903 was a great blow to him, and for a time he was prostrated. He rallied, however,

and was able to resume and discharge his ministerial duties up to within a few days of his death, which occurred on Sunday, 27th May, at the age of seventy-one. He leaves three sons and two daughters.

Mr Bone was elected a Fellow of the Society on 6th April 1887.

AGNES MARY CLERKE was born, 10th February 1842, at Skibbereen, a small country town in a remote part of the County Cork. Her father was John William Clerke; her mother was a sister of the late Lord-Justice Deasy.

Very early in life she was attracted by the wonders of the heavens, and before the age of fifteen had definitely formed the intention of writing a history of astronomy,—had even actually begun it. Always delicate constitutionally, she found her chief pleasures in study and in music. In 1861 the family moved to Dublin; in 1863 to Queenstown; and the years 1867–77 were spent in Italy, chiefly at Florence, where Miss Clerke studied assiduously in the public library, and wrote her first important article, “Copernicus in Italy,” which was accepted by the *Edinburgh Review* (October 1877).

The family then returned to England and settled in London. In 1885 appeared Miss Clerke’s *History of Astronomy in the Nineteenth Century*, a work now in its fourth edition, and regarded as the standard work, continuing the *History* of Grant.

Miss Clerke’s other works, published at intervals, are as follows:—*The System of the Stars*; *Familiar Studies in Homer* (in part only astronomical); *The Herschels: A Concise History of Astronomy*; *Problems in Astrophysics*; *Modern Cosmogonies*.

Besides these works she contributed fifty-five articles to the *Edinburgh Review*, mainly on subjects connected with Astrophysics; the articles on astronomers to the *Dictionary of National Biography*; some articles on astronomers and on astronomical subjects to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*; and innumerable articles to *Knowledge*, to *The Observatory*, and other periodicals.

In later years Miss Clerke was a frequent attendant at the meetings of the Royal Astronomical Society, and in 1903 received the great honour of being elected an Honorary Member of the Society.

She was also a member of the British Astronomical Association, and constantly attended its meetings.

Miss Clerke was not a practical astronomer; but the three months’ visit paid by her in 1888 to the Cape Observatory, as the guest of Sir David and Lady Gill, enabled her to write with increased clearness and confidence. In 1892 she was awarded for her astronomical works the Actonian Prize of 100 guineas by the Royal Institution.

Miss Clerke’s ideals of life were lofty; and, loving and lovable, her character was in complete harmony with them. In all her writings, Truth was ever her goal.